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Now, Mr. Speaker, President Bush has issued a list of principles. We firmly believe that the Ganske-Dingell-Norwood bill meets those principles, especially after the addition of the amendments that were passed almost unanimously in the Senate.

The President has rightly been concerned about increases in costs. We think that our bill is affordable. The estimates by the Congressional Budget Office confirm that. Since the President during his campaign spoke glowingly of the patient protection bills in Texas, this is what we wrote our bill after. When I look at those seven points that the President said he would need to have for his signature, our bill meets those requirements.

Now, we are more than happy to work with President Bush on this, and our door is open. Members of our group have continued to discuss these items with the President. But it is time to move. It is time to get this legislation through the House and get it into the conference. We will be more than happy to continue discussions with the President on these.

I believe President Bush wants to see a Patients' Bill of Rights signed into law and this is the bill that meets his requirements, and it would just be a darn shame not to end up at the end of the day with a bill that meets those requirements, as we think our bill does.

Mr. Speaker, the Speaker of the House promised that we would have a vote on this patient protection bill before we left for our August recess. In fact, we were supposed to have this debate last week. Then it was postponed to this week. The word is out now that we may not have this vote next week either before we go home for August recess.

I would just remind my colleagues that every day HMOs around this country are making health decisions that in many cases are life and death. Those decisions are affecting our family members, our friends, our colleagues, our constituents back home. There is no excuse for not moving ahead and allowing the will of the House to work.

This is supposed to be a democratic institution. Let us have a fair debate, with a fair rule. Sure, there can be amendments. And let us let the will of the people work, and let us move forward in a prompt manner to help patients and our friends get a fair shake from their HMOs and their health insurers in their time of need.

I expect that people will keep their word on this. If we do not have this debate next week, that would be a shame. We should at least move promptly in early September.

But I will tell you, to not bring this bill up because you just cannot have your way, because you do not have the votes, is what I would call a pocket veto without a debate, and I do not be-

lieve that is the democratic way that we should run this House.

Mr. Speaker, let us move to a prompt and fair debate on this bill, and let us get on with the people's business.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. LINDER (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for after 5 p.m. today and the rest of the week on account of personal reasons.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

The following Members (at the request of Mr. OLVER) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LANGEVIN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HOYER, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. BROWN of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MATHESON, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. CARSON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today.

The following Members (at the request of Mr. DEMINT) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. HORN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. NUSSLE, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GANSKE. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 25 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, July 27, 2001, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the speaker's table and referred as follows:

3094. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a report entitled, "Parity of Pay and Benefits For Active Duty Service and Reserve Service; to the Committee on Armed Services.

3095. A letter from the Secretary of the Navy, Department of Defense, transmitting notification that certain major defense acquisition programs have breached the unit cost by more than 25 percent, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2433; to the Committee on Armed Services.

3096. A letter from the Inspector General, Department of Defense, transmit-

ting the semiannual report of the Inspector General and classified annex for the period ending March 31, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Armed Services.

3097. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulations Management, Department of Veterans' Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule—Increase in Rates Payable Under the Montgomery GI Bill—Selected Reserve (RIN: 2900-AK40) received July 19, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

3098. A letter from the General Counsel, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Safety Standard for Automatic Residential Garage Door Operators—received July 18, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3099. A letter from the General Counsel, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Standard for the Flammability of Children's Sleepwear: Sizes 0 through 6X; Standard for the Flammability of Children's Sleepwear: Size 7 through 14—received July 18, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3100. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Revision to the California State Implementation Plan, Bay Area Air Quality Management District, Lake County Air Quality Management District, Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District, Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District, San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District [CA 210-0285; FRL-7013-4] received July 19, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3101. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Revisions to the Arizona State Implementation Plan, Pinal-Gila Counties Air Quality Control District and Pinal County Air Quality Control District [AZ099-0039; FRL-7013-3] received July 19, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3102. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Clean Air Act Full Approval of Operating Permits Program in Alaska [FRL-7012-9] received July 19, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3103. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Imperial County Air Pollution Control District and San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District [CA 169-0282; FRL-7013-5] received July 19, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3104. A letter from the Acting Chief Counsel, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendments to the Iranian Assets Control Regulations—received July 19, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on International Relations.

3105. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting a report on the Physicians' Comparability Allowance Program, pursuant to 5 U.S.C.